

What Is Claimed Is:

1 1. A router circuit having a plurality of electrical input
2 signals comprising:

3 an electrical-to-optical converter for changing the plurality of
4 electrical input signals into a plurality of optical input signals;

5 a mixing circuit coupled to the electrical-to-optical converter,
6 said mixing circuit generating a plurality of substantially identical
7 composite signals corresponding to the plurality of optical inputs, said
8 composite signals comprising at least a portion of each of said plurality of
9 optical signals;

10 a plurality of optical bandpass filters coupled, respectively, to
11 each one of said plurality of composite signals, said plurality of bandpass
12 filters passing a portion of said optical signal to form a plurality of filtered
13 signals, and

14 an optical-to-electrical converter circuit coupled to the
15 plurality of bandpass filters, said optical-to-electrical converter converting
16 said plurality of filtered optical signals into a plurality of respective
17 electrical output signals.

1 2. A router circuit as recited in claim 1 wherein said
2 plurality of bandpass filters comprises a respective plurality of center
3 wavelengths.

1 3. A router circuit as recited in claim 2 further
2 comprising a control circuit coupled to said electrical-to-optical converter,
3 wherein said electrical-to-optical converter comprises a plurality of
4 electrical-to-optical converters, said control circuit selecting a respective

5 plurality of electrical-to-optical converter wavelengths in response to said
6 plurality of bandpass center wavelengths.

1 4. A router circuit as recited in claim 3 wherein said
2 plurality of wavelengths of the electrical-to-optical converter is tunable.

1 5. A router circuit as recited in claim 2 wherein said
2 plurality of center wavelengths of the plurality of bandpass filters is
3 tunable.

1 6. A router circuit as recited in claim 1 wherein said
2 electrical-to-optical converter comprises a plurality of electrical-to-optical
3 converters.

1 7. A router circuit as recited in claim 1 wherein said
2 mixing circuit comprises at least a first plurality of mixers cross coupled
3 with a second plurality of mixers.

1 8. A router circuit as recited in claim 1 wherein said
2 electrical-to-optical converter comprises a modulated tunable laser having
3 a programmed wavelength.

1 9. A router circuit as recited in claim 8 wherein said
2 tunable laser is coupled to a control circuit and a temperature sensor, said
3 control circuit tuning said laser in response to said temperature sensor to
4 maintain the programmed wavelength.

1 10. A router circuit as recited in claim 1 further
2 comprising a clock circuit, said clock circuit comprising a clock electrical-

3 to-optical converter, an optical delay line and an optical-to-electrical
4 converter.

1 11. A router circuit as recited in claim 10 wherein said
2 optical delay line comprises an optical fiber.

1 12. A router circuit as recited in claim 1 wherein said
2 optical-to-electrical converter comprises a photodiode.

1 13. A router circuit as recited in claim 1 wherein said
2 mixing circuit comprises a passive star power splitter.

1 14. A satellite system comprising:
2 said electrical inputs comprising RF inputs;
3 a router circuit as recited in claim 1.

1 15. A satellite system as recited in claim 14 further
2 comprising a buffer circuit receiving said plurality of RF signals, said
3 buffer circuit synchronizing said electrical input signals within a
4 predetermined tolerance before the router

1 16. A router circuit comprising:
2 an electrical-to-optical converter changing electrical inputs
3 into optical signals;
4 a first mixing circuit coupled to a first group of said plurality
5 of optical signals, said first mixing circuit having a first output and a
6 second output, said first output and second output each having a first
7 composite signal comprising said first group of optical signals;
8 a second mixing circuit coupled to a second group of said
9 plurality of optical signals, said second mixing circuit having a third output

10 and a fourth output, said third output and fourth output each having a
11 second composite signal comprising said second group of optical signals;

12 a third mixing circuit coupled to said first and third outputs,
13 said third mixing circuit generating a third composite signal comprising
14 said first composite signal and said second composite signal;

15 a fourth mixing circuit coupled to said second output and
16 fourth output, said fourth mixing circuit generating a fourth composite
17 signal comprising said first composite signal and said second composite
18 signal;

19 a bandpass filter circuit coupled to said third mixing circuit
20 and said fourth mixing circuit, said bandpass filter circuit comprising a first
21 and a second optical bandpass filter, said first bandpass filter coupled to
22 said third composite signal for generating a first optical output and a
23 second bandpass filter coupled to said fourth composite signal for
24 generating a second optical output; and

25 an optical-to-electrical converter circuit coupled to said
26 bandpass filter circuit for converting said first optical output to a first
27 electrical output and said second optical output to a second electrical
28 output.

1 17. A router circuit as recited in claim 16 wherein said
2 electrical-to-optical converter comprises a modulated tunable laser.

1 18. A router circuit as recited in claim 17 wherein said
2 tunable laser is coupled to a control circuit and a temperature sensor, said
3 control circuit controlling said laser in response to a desired router
4 operation and said temperature sensor

1 19. A router circuit as recited in claim 16 further
2 comprising a clock circuit, said clock circuit comprising a clock electrical-
3 to-optical converter, an optical time delay circuit and an optical-to-
4 electrical converter.

1 20. A router circuit as recited in claim 16 wherein said
2 optical-to-electrical converter comprises a photodiode.

1 21. A router circuit as recited in claim 16 wherein said
2 first mixing circuit and said second mixing circuit comprise a respective
3 first star power splitter and a second star power splitter.

1 22. A method of operating a routing circuit comprising:
2 converting a plurality of electrical signals to a respective
3 plurality of modulated optical signals;
4 coupling the plurality of modulated optical signals to a cross
5 connect switch;
6 forming a plurality of composite signals at a plurality of
7 outputs of the cross-connect switch, said plurality of composite signals
8 composed of said modulated optical signals;
9 converting each of the composite signals into an electrical
10 output signal corresponding to a portion of said modulated optical signals.

1 23. A method as recited in claim 22 further comprising
2 synchronizing the output signal using a clock signal.

1 24. A method as recited in claim 22 wherein
2 synchronizing comprises delaying the clock signal an amount

3 corresponding to a delay of the cross-connect switch, to obtain a delayed
4 clock signal.

1 25. A method as recited in claim 22 wherein converting a
2 plurality of electrical signals to a respective plurality of modulated optical
3 signals comprises modulating a respective plurality of diode lasers, each of
4 which is tuned to the center wavelength of a bandpass filter.